

Story 1459 (1992 Tape 3)

Narrator: Leylâ Özdemir, 25

Location: Kırklareli, capital of
Kırklareli Province

Date: May 1992

Civil and Military Discharges

Temel¹ was in the army to complete his required military service. He was not a very good soldier, and he did not wish to be in the army at all. One morning when all of the other troops at that camp were being taught close-order drill by the drill sergeant, Temel was sleeping in the shade of a tree.

A captain came along and caught Temel sleeping there. The captain woke him up and ordered him to stand at attention. After scolding Temel for not doing his duty, the captain asked him, "What is your trade or profession?"

Temel answered, "I am a construction supervisor.

The captain then asked him another question: "If you caught one of your workers sleeping during the work hours, what would you do?"

would fire him at once, my captain."

¹In tales about the stereotyped Laz as dummer or fool, the male characters usually have one or another of five or six very common Laz names. Temel is the name used most often, with Dursun in second place. Thus if either of these names occurs in a folktale, the audience knows at once that it is a Laz tale.